

REPORT TO THE NH CITIZENS COMMISSION ON THE STATE COURTS

12/18/06

VI. Judicial Branch Outreach

<u>Recommendation</u>		<u>Schedule</u>						<u>Action by Judicial Branch</u>
		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	
1	The Judicial Branch should educate New Hampshire citizenry about the importance of an independent judiciary.							In December 2000, the Judicial Branch hired a Public Information Officer who is now a full-time Communications Director. Primary responsibilities of that office include public education, outreach, and community relations.
2	Judicial branch should lead state wide series of symposia on "your government and how it works."							The Court Communications Office has worked to develop opportunities with the Executive and Legislative Branches of government to promote civic education.
3	The Judicial Branch should initiate a vigorous educational outreach program concerning the Judicial Branch.							See Rec. 1 Above
4	The Judicial Branch should create a staff position to conduct outreach.							See Rec. 1 Above
5	The Judicial Branch should maintain constructive working relationships with Executive and Legislative Branch officials.							Supreme Court Justices continue to request periodic meetings with legislative leaders and with the Governor to discuss issues of mutual concern. Furthermore, throughout the Judicial Branch judges and administrators continue to develop constructive working relationships with officials in the Executive and Legislative Branches of government.
6	The Judicial Branch should develop a written policy statement to govern the conduct of outreach activity.							General Counsel will make a recommendation concerning an Outreach Activity Policy.
7	The Judicial Branch should consult with the Governor's Budget Director in preparation of its budget.							The Administrative Office of the Courts met with the Governor's Budget Director to discuss the Judicial Branch budget development process and the Judicial Branch request.
8	The Judicial Branch should participate in the Governor's budget hearings.							The Judicial Branch did not make a presentation during the course of the Governor's budget hearings but will reconsider this issue in the next biennial budget cycle.
9	The Judicial Council should participate in implementation of Commissions recommendations.							The Judicial Council is working on addressing the Citizens Commission recommendations.
10	The Judicial Council should serve as an institutional forum for consideration and discussion of issues affecting the administration of justice.							See Above.
11	The Judicial Council should serve as a conduit for communications among the Judicial, Executive, and Legislative branches.							See Above.
12	The Judicial Council should develop and adopt a written set of objectives.							See Above.
13	The General Court should provide adequate funding to the Judicial Council.							This is the domain of the Legislature.
14	The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court should report to the Commission concerning implementation of Commission recommendations.							Chief Justice Broderick has provided this report to the Commission concerning implementation of recommendations for the first 6 months.